

# **Sociology 215: Race & Ethnic Relations in the U.S. (3 cr. hrs.)**

Sections 2 & 3 Fall 2009

**Instructor: Catherine Field**

3386 Faner Hall 618/453-7698 [field@siu.edu](mailto:field@siu.edu)

**Office Hours: Tue 1-3, Wed 1-3, Thu 1-3**

**Teaching Assistant: Jessica Sippy** [jsippy@siu.edu](mailto:jsippy@siu.edu)

Wed 8:30-11:30 AM Faner Hall 4339 618-453-2494

COURSE FORMAT: Lectures, class discussion, audio-visual media, in-class exercises, and guest lectures.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to: (a) demonstrate an understanding of such concepts as assimilation, pluralism, ascribed and achieved statuses, prejudice, and discrimination; (b) display basic knowledge of historical socioeconomic, and political demographics of the U.S.; (c) demonstrate critical thinking about different theories and perspectives pertaining to race, class, gender, and sexuality; and (d) apply sociological concepts for the analysis of race and ethnicity to personal and/or family experience.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The United States is an increasingly diverse society as witnessed by the changing demographics of race and ethnic relations. To be effective citizens, all students will need exposure to the sociology, history and culture of a variety of ethno-racial groups. Further, it is important for citizens in this globalizing world to understand how gender and class may shape people's experiences of race-ethnicity. Along with the academic content, the course will also focus on providing students with skills for effective communicating on these topics.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: 1) *Diversity and Society: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, Second Edition*. Joseph F. Healey. Published in 2007 by Pine Forge Press. 2) *Nigger: An Autobiography*. Dick Gregory with Robert Lipsyte. Copyright 1964.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

50 pts.	Paper 1
100 pts.	Exam 1
100 pts.	Exam 2
50 pts.	Paper 2
100 pts.	Final exam
100 pts.	Attendance/Participation
-----	
500 pts.	Total

The grading scale will be as follows: A=450+, B=400+, C=350+, D=300+.

There will be three exams, of which any may be objective (multiple choice, for example) or subjective (essay) or both. Exams may include material from the textbook and readings as well as from the lecture. There will be no makeup exams except at the discretion of the instructor, and any makeup must be completed within one calendar week of the test date. Additionally, there will be two short papers, due on specific dates, on topics to be assigned.

It is expected that all work submitted by the student (whether papers or tests) is her or his original work. Plagiarism of any sort will be dealt with in accordance with university policy.

**Emergency Procedures.** Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

- 8/25 Introduction
- 8/27 **Chapter One: Diversity in the United States**
- 9/1 *Nigger: An Autobiography*, pp 3-93
- 9/3 **Chapter Two: Assimilation and Pluralism**
- 9/8 *Nigger: An Autobiography*, pp 97-163
- 9/10 **Chapter Three: The Development of Dominant-Minority Relations in the U.S.**
- 9/15 *Nigger: An Autobiography*, pp 167-209
- 9/17 **Chapter Four: Industrialization and Dominant-Minority Relations**
- 9/22 **Paper One due**
- 9/24 **Exam 1**
- 9/29 **Chapter Five: African Americans**
- 10/1 Peggy McIntosh's "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack"  
<http://www.case.edu/president/aaction/UnpackingTheKnapsack.pdf>  
 Elijah Anderson's "The Code of the Streets"  
[http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=JptxQkr3Ka0C&oi=fnd&pg=PA73&dq=Code+of+the+Street&ots=1QiytuzBS6&sig=z6bn\\_uETwa4VZqYx75wudivL4CE#v=onepage&q=&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=JptxQkr3Ka0C&oi=fnd&pg=PA73&dq=Code+of+the+Street&ots=1QiytuzBS6&sig=z6bn_uETwa4VZqYx75wudivL4CE#v=onepage&q=&f=false)
- 10/6 Elizabeth Martínez' "Seeing More than Black and White"  
<http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=xltVgiCSFaUC&oi=fnd&pg=PA93&dq=%22Seeing+More+than+Black+and+White%22&ots=cTVMszm3s6&sig=0K9l8by6B1skaxUq1-0SpIek40o#v=onepage&q=%22Seeing%20More%20than%20Black%20and%20White%22&f=false>
- 10/8 **Chapter Six: Native Americans**
- 10/13 Mary Brave Bird (Crow Dog) and Richard Erdoes' "Civilize Them with a Stick"  
<http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=R9UNAAAAQAQAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA554&dq=%22civilize+them+with+a+stick%22&ots=XQFZKhwfWv&sig=I8lgzTD4V40g3sJXV69ri2vn4c#v=onepage&q=%22civilize%20them%20with%20a%20stick%22&f=false>
- 10/15 **Chapter Seven: Hispanic Americans**
- 10/20 Sonya Tafoya's "Shades of Belonging: Latinos and Racial Identity"  
[http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=N2pyIc8VoWcC&oi=fnd&pg=PA218&dq=%22shades+of+belonging%22&ots=J22zP\\_tfxU&sig=iVqG3mv63w6pGeWoRmBbmSj9G74#v=onepage&q=%22shades%20of%20belonging%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=N2pyIc8VoWcC&oi=fnd&pg=PA218&dq=%22shades+of+belonging%22&ots=J22zP_tfxU&sig=iVqG3mv63w6pGeWoRmBbmSj9G74#v=onepage&q=%22shades%20of%20belonging%22&f=false)
- 10/22 Evelyn Alsultany's "Los Intersticios: Recasting Moving Selves"  
[http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=N2pyIc8VoWcC&oi=fnd&pg=PA212&dq=Los+Intersticios:+Recasting+Moving+Selves&ots=J22zL5ti\\_W&sig=EQ0thFJsQ2CfigAK9mKqrVx9Tvk#v=onepage&q=Los%20Intersticios%3A%20Recasting%20Moving%20Selves&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=N2pyIc8VoWcC&oi=fnd&pg=PA212&dq=Los+Intersticios:+Recasting+Moving+Selves&ots=J22zL5ti_W&sig=EQ0thFJsQ2CfigAK9mKqrVx9Tvk#v=onepage&q=Los%20Intersticios%3A%20Recasting%20Moving%20Selves&f=false)
- 10/27 **Chapter Eight: Asian Americans**
- 10/29 Eugenia Kaw's "'Opening Faces': The Politics of Cosmetic Surgery and Asian American Women"  
<http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=VadK839gnrAC&oi=fnd&pg=PR11&dq=%22Opening%20Faces:+The+Politics+of+Cosmetic+Surgery+and+Asian+American+Women%22&ots=6GbAnLNllt&sig=KJopWO7NkgXoVJnMaoOneE9xTOE#v=onepage&q=&f=false> (Scroll of skip down to page 241).  
 Noy Thrupkaew's "The Myth of the Model Minority"  
[http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=N2pyIc8VoWcC&oi=fnd&pg=PA224&dq=%22noy+thrupkaew%22&ots=J22zP\\_qh0V&sig=ER9vr4m-YFltekn8yksmAOLADIU#v=onepage&q=%22noy%20thrupkaew%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=N2pyIc8VoWcC&oi=fnd&pg=PA224&dq=%22noy+thrupkaew%22&ots=J22zP_qh0V&sig=ER9vr4m-YFltekn8yksmAOLADIU#v=onepage&q=%22noy%20thrupkaew%22&f=false)
- 11/3 **Exam Two**
- 11/5 **Chapter Nine: New Americans**
- 11/10
- 11/12 **Chapter Ten: White Ethnic Groups**
- 11/17
- 11/19 **Chapter Eleven: Dominant-Minority Relations in Cross-National Perspective**
- 12/1 **Chapter Twelve: Minority Groups and U.S. Society**
- 12/3 **Paper Two due**
- 12/8 tba
- 12/10 tba

Final exam will follow the university's schedule. The instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus if the need should arise. Any changes will be announced in class. **In the event of a documented outbreak of swine flu on campus, distance learning options may be implemented; please make sure your instructor or TA has a working email address for you.**